

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A vertical boat for heat treatment comprising:

a top plate;

a bottom plate; and

~~three or more~~ a plurality of column members fixed between the top plate and the bottom plate, a plurality of grooves being formed in each column member so as to create a supporting part for horizontally supporting a wafer-like body to be treated between the grooves,

wherein each column member of the ~~plurality of~~ three or more column members has a circular arc-shaped cross section and is cylindrically disposed,

wherein each column member of the ~~plurality of~~ three or more column members has the supporting parts in the shape of circular arc having a center angle of 20° to 100°, the supporting parts and the column member being a monolithic piece of a same ~~material~~ material, and

wherein the wafer-like body to be treated is inserted from the grooves of the column members and supported along a circumferential part of a lower surface thereof by the respective circular arc-shaped supporting parts.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 11, wherein the column members are provided with a vent at the same height as each of the grooves.

15. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 12, wherein the column members are provided with a vent at the same height as each of the grooves.

16. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 13, wherein the column members are provided with a vent at the same height as each of the grooves.

17. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 14, wherein the vertical boat for heat treatment is for heat treatment of a silicon wafer.

18. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 15, wherein the vertical boat for heat treatment is for heat treatment of a silicon wafer.

19. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 16, wherein the vertical boat for heat treatment is for heat treatment of a silicon wafer.

20. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 14, wherein an edge of a supporting surface of the supporting part is chamfered.

21. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 15, wherein an edge of a supporting surface of the supporting part is chamfered.

22. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 16, wherein an edge of a supporting surface of the supporting part is chamfered.

23. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 14, wherein the supporting surface of the supporting part is downward sloped in the direction of the inside.

24. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 15, wherein the supporting surface of the supporting part is downward sloped in the direction of the inside.

25. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 16, wherein the supporting surface of the supporting part is downward sloped in the direction of the inside.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a vertical boat for heat treatment of a horizontally supported wafers-wafer-like body to be treated which comprises a top plate, a bottom plate, and a column member fixed between the top plate and the bottom plate, the method comprising:

manufacturing column members, each of which has a circular arc-shaped cross section having a center angle of 20° to 100° and has a larger outside radius and a smaller inside radius than a radius of the body to be treated;

cylindrically disposing ~~two~~three or more said column members between the top plate and the bottom plate to fix the column members; and

forming grooves in each of the column members so as to create circular arc-shaped supporting parts each of which has a center angle of 20° to 100° for supporting in the inside thereof the a-wafer-like body to be treated along a circumferential part of its lower surface, and the supporting parts and the column member being formed as a monolithic piece of a same material.

27. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a vertical boat for heat treatment, the method comprising:

cylindrically disposing two or more column members having a circular arc-shaped cross section between a top plate and a bottom plate to fix the column members;

cutting the column members from a direction to insert the body to be treated thereby to form grooves and at the same time to form circular arc-shaped supporting parts in the inside thereof; and

cutting the column members from a second direction different from the direction, the column members being cut at the same height thereby to form throughholes within each column member.

28. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a vertical boat for heat treatment, the method comprising:

preparing column members each of which has a circular arc-shaped cross section and has a beam outside;

cylindrically disposing two or more said column members between a top plate and a bottom plate to fix the column members; and

cutting each of the column members with a cutting unit from a direction to insert a body to be treated thereby to form grooves, at the same time to form the circular arc-shaped supporting parts in the inside thereof, and further to pass through the other parts than the beam, the cutting unit having a circumferential blade which has a radius larger than an inside radius of the column members and smaller than an outside radius of a part to be said beam.